

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W
-----181324Z 131065 /40

O R 181230Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9253
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION NATO

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/S-O AND EUR.

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EI
SUBJ: IRISH GOVERNMENT FALLS

1. DEFYING THE ODDS AND ALL PREDICTIONS THE OPPOSITION
HAS SWEEPED INTO GOVERNMENT IN IRELAND WITH AN OVERWHELMING
VICTORY IN THE JUNE 16 GENERAL ELECTIONS. AS OF THIS REPORT
TEN PARLIAMENT SEATS ARE STILL UNDERTERMINED, BUT THE FIANNA FAIL
PARTY WILL APPARENTLY GET AT LEAST 81 SEATS IN THE 148-MEMBER
LOWER HOUSE (DAIL). THIS IS THE LARGEST MAJORITY OF ANY GOVERNMENT
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IN IRISH HISTORY.

2. THE MASSIVE SHIFT TO THE FIANNA FAIL PARTY REPRESENTS BOTH AN
ANTI-VOTE AGAINST THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD THE
UNHAPPY TASK OF PRESIDING OVER THE RECESSION IN WHICH
IRISH INFLATION SOARED IN THE 20 PERCENT FIGURES AND
UNEMPLOYMENT REACHED ABOUT 12 PERCENT, AND A POSITIVE VOTE FOR

THE VERY POPULAR PARTY LEADER JACK LYNCH AND HIS PROMISES.

3. LYNCH WILL NOW FORM THE NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL TAKE OFFICE ON JULY 5. IN THE INTERIM THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN CHARGE, BUT AT LEAST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THERE SEEMS TO BE ALREADY AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT FOR INTERIM DECISION MAKING. SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL O'KENNEDY WILL SIT WITH OUTGOING FOREIGN MINISTER GARRET FITZGERALD UNTIL THE CHANGEOVER. IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT O'KENNEDY WILL BE APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER. FORMER MINISTER BRIAN LENIHAN, WHO WAS REELECTED TO HIS SEAT WITH A HANDSOME VOTE (HE WAS OUSTED IN THE 1973 ELECTION), IS ANOTHER LIKELY CANDIDATE.

4. THIS SURPRISE ELECTION RESULT SHOULD MAKE VERY LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN IRISH FOREIGN POLICY OR US-IRISH RELATIONS. LYNCH WAS PRIME MINISTER FROM 1969 UNTIL 1973 AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL WAS CONTINUED BY THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE FIANNA FAIL HAS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM, I.E. IT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE BRITISH SHOULD ANNOUNCE AN INTENTION OF WITHDRAWAL (WITH A SUITABLY INDEFINITE DATE). HOWEVER, LYNCH HIMSELF HAS BEEN THE MODERATING FACTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND POLICY, REJECTING THE MORE RADICAL "REPUBLICANS" WITHIN HIS PARTY SUCH AS CHARLES HAUGHEY. WITH THIS MASSIVE (BY IRISH STANDARDS) ELECTORAL VICTORY, WHICH IS VERY LARGELY JACK LYNCH'S PERSONAL VICTORY, HE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN PUTTING DOWN THE REPUBLICAN FACTIONS IN HIS PARTY AND UPCOMING GOVERNMENT.

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5. LYNCH IS A GOOD AND SOLID FRIEND OF THE US AND WE CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT THAT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY CLOSE. HOW IRELAND WILL FARE IN THE EC WILL DEPEND UPON WHOM IS NAMED AS FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT THE BASIC IRISH STANCE IN VIRTUALLY ALL EC AFFAIRS SHOULD CHANGE VERY LITTLE. GARRET FITZGERALD'S OPENING TOWARD THE EAST EUROPEAN AREA MIGHT SLOW DOWN A BIT AS FIANNA FAIL TENDS TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE IN THIS AREA THAN THE COALITION FINE GAEL/LABOR GOVERNMENT.

6. WE WILL BE SENDING SEPTTEL WITH MORE DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ELECTION.
REND AHL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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